

CLEAN COPY OF REPLACEMENT CLAIMSIN THE CLAIMS:

1. (previously amended) A fiber optic cable comprising:
at least one bundle, said at least one bundle comprising a plurality of non-tight buffered optical fibers and a binder element;

said binder element maintaining the plurality of non-tight buffered optical fibers in said at least one bundle;

a separation layer contacting a portion of said at least one bundle;

a cable jacket contacting at least a portion of said separation layer, wherein said separation layer inhibits adhesion between said at least one bundle and said cable jacket; and

said fiber optic cable excluding a grease or a grease-like composition being in contact with said at least one bundle for filling interstices of the cable thereby blocking water from flowing through the cable.

2. (previously amended) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said binder element being selected from a binder thread, a binder yarn, a thin film, and a tape.

3. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said fiber optic cable having 144 non-tight buffered optical fibers with a cable diameter of about 10 mm or less.

4. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said plurality of non-tight buffered optical fibers further including a tight buffered layer, and said fiber optic cable having 144 tight buffered optical fibers with a cable diameter of about 20 mm or less.

5. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said binder element being a binder thread encircling said

plurality of non-tight buffered optical fibers.

6. (previously amended) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said separation layer being selected from a fiberglass yarn, an aramid yarn, an armor layer, a water-swellable tape, a thin film, and a soft housing.

7. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said separation layer having a tensile strength characteristic.

8. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said at least one bundle being stranded around a central member.

9. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said fiber optic cable being a portion of a breakout cable.

10. (previously amended) A fiber optic cable comprising:
at least one bundle, said bundle comprising a plurality of non-tight buffered optical fibers and at least one binder thread encircling the plurality of optical fibers, thereby maintaining the plurality of optical fibers in the bundle;

a separation layer adjacent to and generally surrounding said at least one bundle;

a cable jacket contacting at least a portion of said separation layer, wherein said separation layer inhibits adhesion between said at least one bundle and said cable jacket; and

said fiber optic cable excluding a grease or a grease-like composition being in contact with said at least one bundle for filling interstices of the cable thereby blocking water from flowing through the cable.

11. (cancelled)

12. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 10, said at least one binder thread comprises a looper thread and a needle thread that cooperate to encircle the plurality of optical

fibers.

13. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 12, said looper thread and said needle thread are secured to one another by a plurality of overlapped stitches.

14. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 10, said at least one binder thread includes a silicone wax emulsion finish.

15. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 10, said fiber optic cable being a portion of a breakout cable.

16. (previously amended) A fiber optic cable comprising:

a central member;

at least one bundle, said at least one bundle comprising a plurality of non-tight buffered optical fibers and a binder element;

said binder element maintaining said plurality of non-tight buffered optical fibers in said at least one bundle;

a cable jacket surrounding said at least one bundle;

a separation layer for inhibiting adhesion between said at least one bundle and said cable jacket, wherein said separation layer is adjacent to said at least one bundle; and

said fiber optic cable excluding a grease or a grease-like composition being in contact with said at least one bundle for filling interstices of the cable thereby blocking water from flowing through the cable.

17. (previously amended) The fiber optic cable according to claim 16, said binder element being selected from a binder thread, a thin film, and a tape.

18. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 16,

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said binder element being at least one binder thread encircling said plurality of non-tight buffered optical fibers.

19. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 16, said at least one binder thread comprises a looper thread and a needle thread that cooperate to encircle the plurality of optical fibers.

20. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 19, said looper thread and said needle thread are secured to one another by a plurality of overlocked stitches.

21. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 16, said at least one binder thread includes a silicone wax emulsion finish.

22. (previously amended) The fiber optic cable according to claim 16, said separation layer being selected from a fiberglass yarn, an aramid yarn, an armor layer, a water-swellaable tape, a thin film, and a soft housing.

23. (previously amended) A fiber optic cable comprising:
at least one bundle, said at least one bundle comprising a plurality of optical fibers and a binder element;
said binder element maintaining said plurality of optical fibers in said at least one bundle;
an armor layer surrounding said at least one bundle, wherein said armor layer is adjacent to said at least one bundle; and
said fiber optic cable excluding a cable jacket within said armor layer.

24. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 23, said plurality of optical fibers being non-tight buffered.

25. (previously amended) The fiber optic cable according to claim 23, said binder element being selected from a binder

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thread, a binder yarn, a thin film, and a tape.

26. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 23, said binder element being a binder thread encircling said plurality of optical fibers.

27. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 23, said fiber optic cable further comprising a cable jacket generally surrounding said armor layer.

28. (previously presented) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said plurality of non-tight buffered optical fibers further including a tight buffered layer.

29. (previously presented) The fiber optic cable according to claim 10, said plurality of non-tight buffered optical fibers further including a tight buffered layer.

30. (previously presented) The fiber optic cable according to claim 16, said plurality of non-tight buffered optical fibers further including a tight buffered layer.

31. (previously presented) The fiber optic cable according to claim 23, said plurality of optical fibers further including a tight buffered layer.